Public Health
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Rock Island County
Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2020

Rock Island County Health Department reports 17 new COVID-19 cases

Seventeen more people in Rock Island County have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total cases to 42.

The new cases are:

- A woman in her 60s who is being treated in a local hospital
- A man in his 70s who is being treated in a local hospital
- A man in his 70s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 50s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 30s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 50s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 30s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 30s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 20s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 60s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 40s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 50s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 20s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 50s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 40s who is isolating at home
- A man in his 20s who is isolating at home
- A woman in her 30s who is isolating at home

No additional information regarding these cases is available due to federal privacy laws.

“We understand that this is a large number, but it reflects what we have been saying for several weeks now: COVID-19 is circulating widely in our community,” said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department.

“Social distancing remains the best way to keep from getting sick. Residents only should be leaving home for essential work, food and supplies,” she said.

We continue to encourage you to help us to drive home the recommendations about social distancing. While many of the public places where we find ourselves are not open, we still all need to do our part to minimize the spread of illness.

Please help us all by:

- Social distancing by staying at home as much as possible.
- Keeping at least 6 feet between you and anyone else
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time and using hand sanitizer when washing your hands is not possible.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your elbow.
- Staying home when you are ill.

If you think you may need to seek healthcare, **call first**. Your provider can assess whether you need to be seen in the office or whether you can recover at home.

Late Friday, the CDC recommended that people who are not showing signs of illness wear a cloth face covering in public settings, especially in places where social distancing is more difficult, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

Cloth face coverings should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be machine laundered and dried without damage or change to shape

Individuals also should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

A tutorial of how to make masks is available at richd.org and the Rock Island County Health Department Facebook page. The materials required are:

- Two 10-inch x 6-inch rectangles of cotton fabric
- Two 6-inch pieces of elastic (or rubber bands, string, cloth strips, or hair ties)
- Needle and thread (or bobby pin)
- Scissors
- Sewing machine

“The CDC does not recommend that masks be placed on children younger than 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or those who are unconscious or unable to remove the mask without help,” Ludwig said. “Surgical masks or N-95 respirators still are not appropriate for use by the general public – those are potentially lifesaving supplies needed for healthcare workers and first responders.”

For up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the Rock Island Health Department webpage at www.richd.org and the IDPH webpage at http://www.dph.illinois.gov/

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